



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
June 30, 2003**

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**“OPERATION BEANTOWN”**

**SEVENTH MEMBER OF MANCHESTER CRACK RING SENTENCED ON FEDERAL  
CRACK COCAINE DISTRIBUTION CHARGES**

**Re: United States v. Antwone Cousins**

**Concord, New Hampshire** -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. State Police Colonel Gary Sloper, and Manchester Police Chief John Jaskolka announced that **Antwone “Sticks” Cousins**, date of birth of December 1, 1981, of Manchester, NH was sentenced on June 30, 2003 on crack cocaine distribution and weapons charges.

At today’s sentencing, U.S. District Judge Joseph DeClerico, Jr. imposed a sentence of 56 months imprisonment followed by a three-year period of supervised release during which COUSINS’ behavior will be monitored by the U.S. Department of Probation.

On February 18, 2003, COUSINS entered a guilty plea to an information alleging that he distributed cocaine base, also known as “crack cocaine,” in Manchester on August 26, 2002, and unlawfully possessed 9mm ammunition in his Concord St., Manchester apartment on October 16, 2002. Federal law prohibits unlawful drug users from possessing firearms and ammunition.

COUSINS was arrested by Manchester and New Hampshire State Police officers on October 15, 2002, along with ten others, as part of their joint “Operation Beantown” investigation, so named because of its focus on alleged Boston-based drug traffickers that had relocated to Manchester. Six others have been sentenced in connection with the investigation, including Michael “Mook” Martin (65 months), Taranne “Black” Tillis (46 months), Roderick “Shawn” Echols (46 months), Maria Miranda (37 months), Tarrell Burris (30 months), and Justin “Styles” Foote (12 months). Convicted members of the ring that await sentencing include Raheem “Ruckus” Rice and Garry Rice.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, “This case demonstrates our office’s commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level crack dealers operating in Manchester and New Hampshire’s other larger cities. Operation Beantown is a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in combating the disastrous impact of crack cocaine on our urban neighborhoods and their residents. This office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts.”

The conviction resulted from a joint investigation conducted by the Manchester Police Department’s Special Investigations Unit and the N.H. State Police Narcotics Investigation Unit.

The prosecution was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante, the Lead Attorney for the District of New Hampshire in the New England Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (“New England OCDEF”).